VOLUME XIX | DECEMBER 2, 1957 | NUMBER 18

CONSERVATION FINALE FOR 1957

Our last conservation column of the year is a symposium of news items from near and far. Starting close to home we report the action of the Alameda supervisors, who voted unanimously to send a resolution to the Governor urging that money be found to purchase the Garin Ranch, east of the Hayward-Niles highway: "bold open hills... with a hinterland of wooded draws and creek bottoms... abundant water... protected native flora... walking distance from population centers." This passed the Legislature but was pocket-vetoed because of lack of funds. This sounds good, and we hear from Randal Dickey that he will be visiting this and other county projects next week, reporting on them later.

Butano is in trouble again. Oil has been found so close to the State Park lands that owners will not sell their rights to sub-surface minerals and the Park Department can't buy unless these rights are relinquished. Park officials have wondered aloud if it would not be a good idea to abandon the whole project. 700 acres have now been acquired and appraisers are working on adjoining land. A geological survey is also underway to determine the probability of oil. No one in the Sierra Club would feel like giving up a project so close to his heart without most convincing reasons.

In Ventura County, in the wildest part of the coast range, the sparse timber on Alamo Mountain has been offered for sale by the Forest Service under the excuse of a "sanitation salvage" cut. This type of cut involves removal of diseased trees and those likely to become diseased, and even though the Forest Service sets strict conditions the cut usually works out at as much good sound timber as the operator needs to make a profit. Alamo Mountain is an island of Jeffery and yellow pines in a range of brushy hills. There is certainly disease present, but is a cut justified considering the low timber but

(Continued Page 2)

MAKIN'S OF MORE SNOWMEN SEEN!

Good news for winter sports fans -- there will be more snowfall in the Sierra Nevada this winter than last winter, Weldon F. Heald, the Sierra Club's crystal snowball gazer, predicted.

Heald, whose home is in Tucson, Arizona, informed the Club that his studies indicate a total snowfall of 315 to 350 inches at Soda Springs, Donner Summit, with proportionate snowfall elsewhere up and down the range. There is a good chance the total might be ten per cent more or about 375 inches, Heald said.

Total snowfall at Soda Springs last winter was 296 inches, about ten per cent more than Heald's forecast of 275 inches for the 1956-7 season, an excess which he said at the time was likely.

Heald has selected Soda Springs as the basis of his snow forecasts because Weather Bureau snowfall records there go back to 1870. He supplements these by studies of tree rings which carry the records back to 1811.

These studies reveal a cyclical rise and fall in total snowfall there spanning about 15 years. The 1951-2 record snowfall of 788 inches at Soda Springs (which Heald predicted two years in advance) culminated one of these 15-year cycles, and then the trend turned downward.

The snowfall in 1952-3 was 466.7 inches; 1953-4, 315.5 inches; 1954-5, 334 inches; 1955-6, 510.5 inches; and 1956-7, 296 inches.

Heald believes the Sierra snowfall still is headed downward, the bottom to be reached with a total snowfall of 200 inches or less in one of the next three winters.

A long-time student of Sierra weather, climate and glacier behavior, Heald recently discovered an unsuspected glacier on a desert peak on the Nevada-Utah border. The site is now under consideration as a possible Great Basin National Park.

-- Sierra Club Press Release

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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NEXT DEADLINE: January 6, 1958

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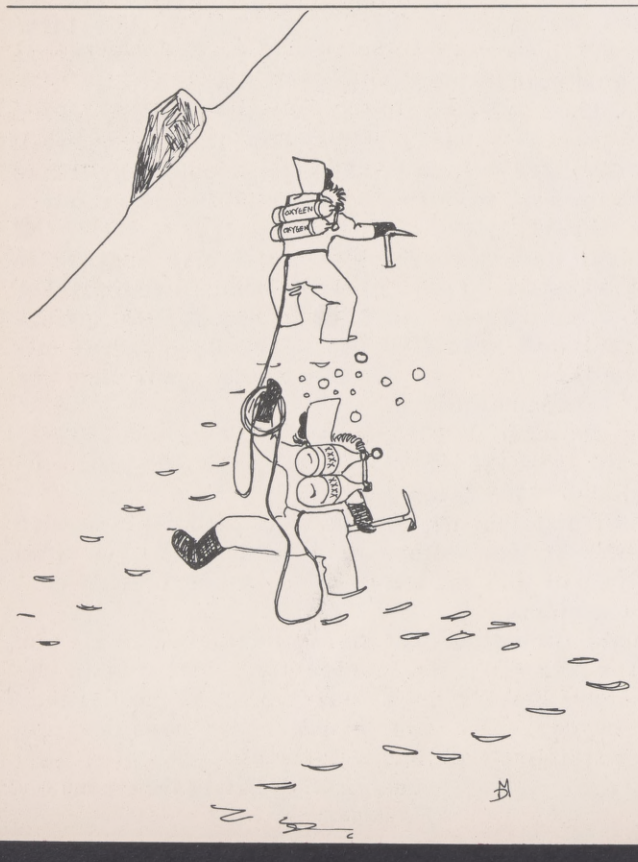
THREE YEARS AGO IN THE YODELER

Makalu Report, May 3, 1954. "Nello Pace has written that it is expected that the first attempt to reach the summit will be sometime this week!"
Sure would like to hear if they made it!
-- NP



TAPE RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Monroe Agee has available six rolls of tape recordings on subjects pertaining to foldboating.

Last summer when Jack Fuller from the Washington Foldboat Club was here from Seattle, he left the recordings with Monroe. The recordings were made by the club during meetings and cover the following subjects: foldboating skills, foods, safety first, camping, boat repairs and other interesting topics.

Anyone interested in listening to the recordings, may drop Monroe a card and he will send them to you, one at a time.

His address: 13750 Rivulet Road, San Jose 24.

Conservation Finale for 1957 (Continued from P. 1)

high recreation value of this forest? And will the remaining trees reproduce a forest or will the brush take over? How did forests survive for milleniums without sanitation-salvage cuts? The Sierra Club has protested this decision, asking the Forest Service to study the area much more carefully, but the urge to harvest a cash crop is strong.

Bob Golden has recently visited another of these sanitation cuts in the San Bernardino National Forest near Lake Arrowhead. The Service is fully aware of the recreation values here and the cutting has been very carefully done. Even so, there are scars and stumps. There is a new disease of pines here which causes yellow needles and death of the tree within two years. We wonder how much of the tendency to disease is due to weakness of trees under long-continued drought.

Bob Golden also heard Bruce Black, naturalist for Joshua Tree National Monument, describe the plan for the Monument under Mission 66. It seems a model of what such plans should be. There is to be improvement of roads but no enlargement, new and better camp grounds, and thirty miles of hiking and riding trails which are already cut out though not yet usable. The Monument's special problems are still present. Miners want it opened to prospecting, a TV Club wants an antenna there, and there are still 70,000 acres of private holdings within the boundaries.

The best news comes from far away and its outlines are still so vague and unofficial that we cannot be positive about it. We hear that the Secretary of the Interior has set aside nine million acres north of the Brooks Range in Alaska as an Arctic Reserve. Details will come later, but this looks like a real Christmas gift to wilderness lovers. Most of that land is considered worthless from a mining standpoint but the caribou will not know the difference.

Merry Christmas everyone, and get ready to work hard for Wilderness in the New Year when Congress will be considering the bills which concern conservation of wild lands.

-- CMC

MORE BILLBOARD JUNGLES?

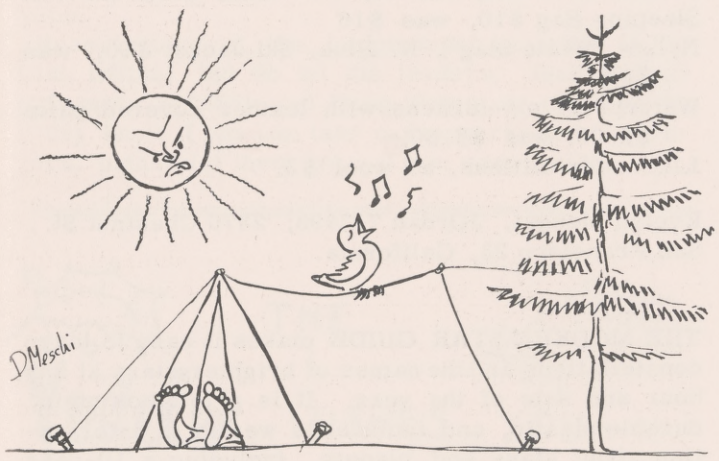
Two out of three Americans, a Trendex poll reveals, definitely oppose rural outdoor advertising. The Union Oil Company, serving nine western states, cancels all use of billboards--the result, a twenty per cent increase of patronage. Yet the billboard industry still speaks with more authority in Congress than we the people, because you have not been heard from.

Senator Kuchel in the Public Works Committee cast a deciding vote for a narrow 7-6 defeat of the Neuberger bill (S-963), which would regulate outdoor advertising along the recently enacted $50 billion 41,000 mile Interstate Highway System.

A late report: Our senator begins to realize that the public wants something done about the billboard problem. He needs your encouragement.

S-963 will be revived again in January. If for esthetic reasons you resent the roadside wall of signs that block the American landscape, let Senator Thomas Kuchel (Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.) and Senator Richard Neuberger know now that you support strong billboard controls along the new Interstate Highway System.

-- Fred Eissler
Sierra Club Anti-Litter Committee



NOW SHOWING—BRADLEY HUT SLIDES

Bill Owen's color slides of Bradley Hut work parties are now on display at the Club Office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4. Duplicates of these slides may be ordered there before January 15, 1958.

SANTA CLAUS AND SUCH

Now that the time is drawing near for mistletoe and jingle bells, that jolly man in the red suit will be calling on the East Bay Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 18. A number of children will greet him and entertain him with carols. Get in the Christmas Spirit and bring an ornament for the Christmas tree and wear another yourself. Also everyone please bring a 50¢ gift with your name inside and one of Santa's helpers will give you another.

Children have a special invitation to this dinner and party at Willard School Cafeteria, Berkeley, at 6:30. Phone Jean Maderios at LA 4-2519 for dinner reservations and cancellations by 10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16th.

MOUNTAINEARS HEAR

Fred Sandrock reports that last season's injured skier, Oscar ("I've had a slight mishap") Carlson, has had a 98% recovery and is anxious to let 'em run again. And, looking ahead to next summer, Oscar hopes to be back in the yoke ("Trailwise") helping in the leadership of a Club knapsack trip.

In November, Phyllis Smith and Michael Macchiaverna were married.

Leland Curtis is in the Antarctic for the second time; he plans to do some painting there.

Theodore and Barbara (Cross) Lachelt have returned from the state of Washington and are now living in Berkeley.

Warren Lemmon employed by the Matson Co., Real Estate Division, will be commuting every month to Honolulu -- but he will still have time to be our "space pilot."

While gathering mistletoe on Mt. Diablo a few days ago, Dick Monges gave all his to a girl because he said she needed it more than he did. What a thing to say to a girl, Dick! -- but at least he blushed as this was pointed out to him.

Georgie White had a River Rat Reunion which was well represented by San Francisco, Berkeley, Sacramento, and Oakland -- she said she had a few over 400. Georgie said she would try to have a River Rat Reunion in San Francisco as of March sometime.

Hope everyone watched the first part of "White Water Conquest" on television, Channel 7 last month. It was very exciting. If you missed the first one, hope you didn't miss the second one on Dec. 4.

-- NP

GFD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sierrans are welcome at the Garfield Folk Dancers' Christmas Party. This event -- which is always lot of fun -- will be in the Brazilian Room, of Tilden Regional Park, in the Berkeley hills, starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 21. A modest donation--to cover expenses -- is expected.

Garfield is an independent club having no official connection with the Sierra Club. But since folk dancing seems to fit in so naturally with skiing, knapsacking and other SC-type interests, about half of the GFDers are also Sierrans.

If you don't folk dance, attend other Garfield meetings and learn another way to have a real good time. Their beginning class and dance group meets on Thursdays, and their intermediate group on Wednesdays--both at the Willard School, Ward and Telegraph, Berkeley. And if you're advanced, contact them to find out where the Tuesday night meeting is held.

For our back cover we reprint Ansel Adams' wonderful shot of Ax Nelson and John Salathe at the end of their 5-day conquest of the Lost Arrow.

The editor doesn't want to use pictures from his own files exclusively. We would welcome a chance to use pictures from our readers. Surely you don't all shoot color exclusively.

IN MEMORIAM

Siegfried Frohlich

(The Editor's Father)

SUMMIT SCANS THE SUMMITS

An RCS "training ground"--the Ritter-Minaret area in the Sierras -- is the subject of the frontispiece photograph for the current SUMMIT Magazine. From this spot as home base, the reader is taken on a tour of peaks in other parts of the world--Peru, Utah, Washington, Switzerland and Wisconsin, and more.

In Peru the climbing party scaled peaks in the Cordillera Blanca range. One of these mountains has the distinction of having been first scaled by a woman, and only a few peaks can make such a claim. Fifty-year-old Smith College Latin teacher, Annie S. Peck, made the first ascent in 1908.

Mt. Rainier enthusiasts Bob and Ira Spring, whose photographs have appeared in Bay Area publications, state why they think the hard way is better in mountaineering, the hard way being shouldering a pack and struggling along difficult ridges when you could go by ski lift. Doing new things in new places is their secret thrill.

Four Mormon farmers taught Peter Farquhar some tricks of mountain climbing that set him back on his pitons -- which the farmers themselves didn't use. And all they were doing was settling an argument as to the height of the cliff!

A party of six mountaineers in Washington went off on their climb without a flashlight. The five survivors won't try that again.

Another writer laments the lack of authenticity resulting from the filming of a Colorado Rocky Mountain picture in Switzerland. The picture is "High Hell". Maybe the producers think the Rockies aren't high enough for their purposes.

What passes for mountains in Wisconsin will have to do "until somebody gets around to growing a mountain," according to Robert I. Keyes in his account of rock-climbing in Devil's Lake State Park.

"It's a simple matter of mathematics -- two people working six months a year are just as good as one person working twelve months to support two people" is the simple philosophy of Herb and Jan Conn, who tell how they fitted making a living in with rock-climbing all over the U. S.

-- AR

SUMMIT Subscriptions: $3.00 from the publishers, Acacia Company, Box 52, Huntington Park, Calif.

WANTED TO BUY

Used Slide Projector, 300 watt, fan cooled.
Beaded Screen
3-speed record player
Barbara and Ted Lachelt, THornwall 5-0301

FOR SALE

Beautiful 1929 Ford Roadster*, beautifully restored, new tires, top, upholstery, reworked mechanically. Must sell my best and last pride and joy for cash: $1000. Harvey Rogers, KLondike 2-1231 evenings or SUtter 1-5207 days.

* Optional at extra cost (can't have an auto ad without this)

And we have a for sale ad from a girl who really stocked up on ski equipment, tried skiing once, decided it made her too stiff and besides was too expensive. Now she's going to ride horses instead of skis. Bargain hunters will wish there were more like her.

Henke Ski Boots and racks, $20, was $37.50.
Slalom Ski Pants, N. Blue, 24" waist, $15, was $19
Sleeping Bag $10, was $16
Nylon "White Stag", N. Blue, Ski Jacket $10, was $15.
Waterproof ski mittens with leather covered palm $2.00, was $3.50.
Liners for mittens, all wool $2.

Evelyn Mengel, JOrdan 7-7495, 2370 Chestnut St., San Francisco 23, California.

THE MODERN STAR GUIDE makes it easy to learn constellations and the names of brighter stars at any hour and date of the year. It is printed on rigid, durable plastic, and includes a wealth of information about stars and planets, including a 10-year table of planetary positions of 5 important planets. Endorsed by Morrison Planetarium. $2.50 postpaid from MODERN STAR GUIDE, 2321 Derby St., Berkeley 5, THornwall 5-6886.

LEDERHOSEN, leather shorts imported from Germany, original Bavarian article "Marke Bergfreund", steerhide, grey, in all sizes for adults and children. Also original leather suspenders, Bavarian hats, knee stockings, and "Stutzen". Reasonable prices. Mrs. Annemarie Fahrenbach, 463 Hanover Avenue, Oakland 6, GLencourt 2-1381.

DON'T SEW UP THAT HOLE IN YOUR POCKET — SEND IT TO (SEE BELOW)

Found an extra dollar in your paycheck and you don't know what to do with it?

Pulled that wasp's nest on the back porch apart and a $5 bill dropped out?

Aunt Amarylis' picture fell off the wall and there were two $10 bills in the frame?

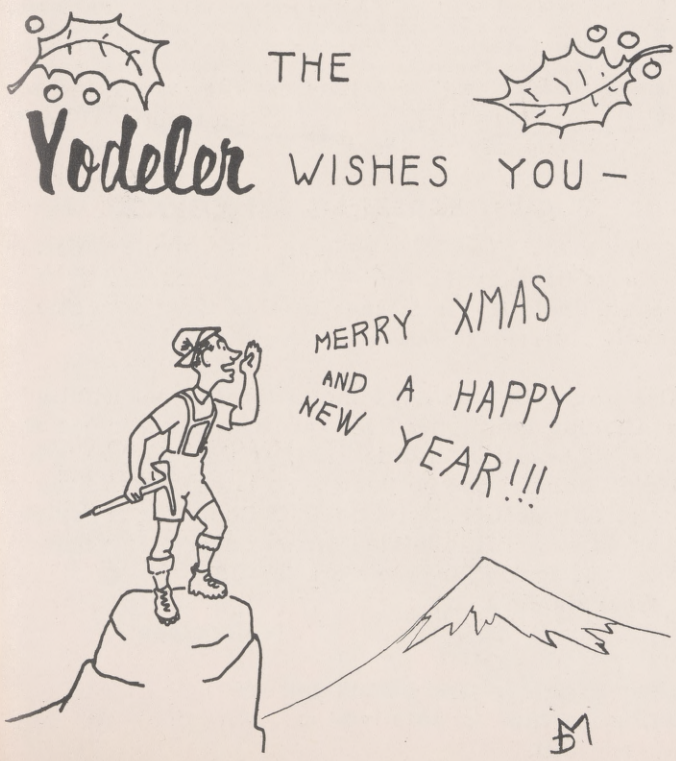
Lucky you! For the Trustees for Conservation are having their fund drive now and you can send the money to them.

Who are the Trustees for Conservation? If you're on the Sierra Club mailing list, you received a circular from them, explaining this year's conservation projects. If you didn't keep the circular, write to them at 251 Kearny St., San Francisco 8, and ask for another. Then send them those loose dollars before you lose them.

SNOWSHOERS' WEEKEND AT CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

Can you visualize crunching your racquet tracks through freshly fallen glittering snow? What an exhilarating experience that will be. And you won't have to snow camp to enjoy this. You can journey forth after a good hearty breakfast at the Lodge and then return to the hearth for the evening's relaxation.

Reservations at the Lodge must be made at the Club Office, but do let the leaders, Jean Bonner (OLympic 5-1156) and Doug Peterson (SKyline 1-0793) know if you can take passengers; and passengers, please let them know if you want a ride.



WE'VE BEEN ASKED

about Yodeler deadlines, and since we seem to be a bit short of copy this issue, it seems like a good time to give a complete run-down on the whole situation.

Editorial night on The Yodeler is always stated on the Page 2 masthead designated as "Next Deadline." Generally these are the first and third Mondays of each month, with exceptions during the holiday season and summer vacation.

We couldn't put out an issue with only staff-written articles, and we welcome contributions on any subject of interest to the club, or concerning what members are doing, etc.

Barbara Tilden once said there were 2 requirements--"You've got to write it up, and you've got to send it in, or else it won't be printed." Actually you don't even have to do this--you can phone it in on editorial night. However, this causes the staff considerable extra work--we have to stop what we're doing to take dictation over the phone--and this privilege must be used with discretion. We'd rather take a phoned story than have to leave it out--but whenever possible please send it in ahead of time. If it's an important announcement, you can then phone in to verify that we've got it.

Also, if your item is hand-written, please carefully print all unusual words, all names, all phone numbers. OLympic and GLencourt are quite different, but a hastily scrawled "OL" looks very similar to a hastily scrawled "GL". And we may not be in the mood to stop and check the correct spelling of an illegible name against the membership files.

The Yodeler's address is given on the masthead. Those who send copy directly to the editor's home should remember he is trying to be careful in not mislaying things, but has not been completely successful.

-- HF

* *

Do you like to ski down a winter hill,
And drink the snow in a burying spill?

Or how about hiking up a woodsy trail,
On a sprig of holly yourself to impale?

A Christmas climb is in the air,
With lofty enjoyment of a day so rare.

Even foldboating through ice is a nice possibility;
And eskimo rolling induces tranquillity.

Whatever your way of spending the day,
A Merry Christmas, from Yodeler-by-the-Bay!

-- DB

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RUSSIA AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

This is the title of the December 2 issue of Sports Illustrated Magazine to which the entire issue is devoted.

In the introduction to the article the editor states: "On the pages following, a picture window is opened on a facet of life in the Soviet Union never before revealed in such detail. Photographer Jerry Cooke, a man uniquely qualified by intimate knowledge of the Russian language and character, melted into the great melting pot of the U.S.S.R. last summer and returned with a story of extraordinary dimensions--a documentary not only of the vast Soviet physical culture program but also an intimate record of the average citizen in his leisure time."

Mr. Cooke, through his sensitive photographs and narratives, takes you from the international contests in the giant stadiums to a Sunday off at the lakes and in the mountains.

The price of the magazine is 25 cents per issue and if you cannot secure it at your local dealer, the address is Sports Illustrated, Time, Inc., 100 Bush Street, San Francisco 4, California.

-- MS

DON'T FORGET RTS CHRISTMAS PARTY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 !

How many of you remember Carol Wooten's imaginative decorations from last year's RTS Christmas Party? Remember how they were enhanced by the shimmering lights all around, across the water of Lake Merritt... Remember the exciting combo we had from the William Tell Hotel!! You just couldn't sit still--such was their enthusiasm... and the sumptious refreshments by Jackie Watkins and committee, served on those cute individual tables continental style. (Same Good Music)

Well, hold your hats folks, this year promises to be just as much fun, a trifle different with exciting decorative innovations and goodness knows, what other interesting features are planned. This we know, you shouldn't miss this party... no matter what! Bring your friends! Come stag or drag. Lake Merritt Canoehouse (built right out of the water), 8:30 p.m., price $1.25. Tickets available at the door.

AUNT BARBARA'S (?) CORNER

Don't know if we can resume this former feature without Barbara Tilden -- but we're darned if we'll call it Uncle Howie's; that title is used only by two lovely children in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dear Aunt Barbara: I met a lovely, beautiful girl at Glacier Point, but I got careless and told her she was so beautiful it didn't matter that she was a little bit dumb. She got mad! So later, when I met a cultured intelligent girl on Half Dome I told her she was so smart it didn't matter that she wasn't pretty. She practically threw me off the cliff.

What should I do?

-- Hopeless

Dear Hopeless (and I think you are!):

It's too late to do anything! Why don't you jump off that cliff?

-- AB